

FIRST 5 COMMISSION OF SAN DIEGO
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Commissioners Present:

Greg Cox, Chairman
Ken Colling, Vice Chairman
Dr. Nora Faine, Secretary
Dr. Rodger Lum
Dr. Nancy Bowen

Staff Present:

Laura Spiegel, Executive Director
Denis McGee
Grace Young
Kim Frink
Rick Collantes
Susan Morgan
Amie Meegan
David Smith, Deputy County Counsel
Patty Kay Danon, District 1

Minutes for June 2, 2003

1. Call to Order

Chairman Cox called the meeting of the First 5 Commission of San Diego to order at 2:00 p.m.

2. Opportunity for Public Comments

There were no public comments received on items not on the agenda.

3. Approval of Commission Meeting Minutes - May 5, 2003

ON MOTION OF Commissioner Colling, seconded by Commissioner Faine, the Commission approved the minutes of May 5, 2003.

AYES:	Cox, Colling, Faine, Lum, Bowen
ABSENT:	None
ABSTAIN:	None
NOES:	None

4. Formation of Consent Calendar

ON MOTION OF Commissioner Bowen, seconded by Commissioner Colling, the Commission approved the formation of the Consent Calendar, with Items 7, 9 and 10 being pulled by the Commissioners. There were no items pulled by the public. Item 14 was a presentation by The Fromm Group. The remaining items were approved per staff recommendation.

AYES:	Cox, Colling, Faine, Lum, Bowen
ABSENT:	None
ABSTAIN:	None
NOES:	None

5. State/Staff Report

Executive Director Spiegel gave a brief update on the Americorps program. Due to uncertainties related to the Americorps funding, the number of awards available for Americorps members is expected to be quite smaller than anticipated. Commission staff is waiting to hear how many Americorps members will be allotted to participate from our County. She also informed the Commission that she would be distributing a sealed survey packet to commissioners to fill out from Max Neiman, Director of the Center for Social and Behavioral Science Research, University of California, Riverside. He is respectfully asking the Commissioners to complete the short survey as part of a larger project to study Prop 10 implementation.

Commissioner Faine reported that the Kindergarten Teachers Summit held on May 16, 2003 was a success. Thirty-six teachers from 22 school districts attended the Summit and shared valuable information as to what qualities a child should have to be ready for kindergarten. The information from the Summit was recorded and will be discussed in a follow up meeting on June 17, 2003. The School Readiness Leadership Team and the Commission can use the final report that will be produced to share with early child care educators.

The Commission received the State/Staff Report, on Consent. No action was taken on this item as it was for information purposes only.

6. TPAC Report

Commissioner Colling made a correction to the TPAC meeting summary of May 19, 2003. He wanted the minutes to reflect that TPAC supported the findings in the Information and Referral Systems, Resources Research and Planning for Coordination Report, including local implementation of 211, by The Fromm Group.

The Commission received the report of the May 19, 2003 TPAC meeting, on Consent.

7. Technical and Professional Advisory Committee (TPAC) Membership

Commissioner Lum conveyed his appreciation to the members of TPAC for their commitment and invaluable service to the Commission. He was pleased to learn that someone specializing in the area of child psychology was chosen as a member. He was also happy that a parent representative from District 5 will be serving TPAC. However, he noticed that two of the recommended members work in the same organization and wanted to know if there was anything in the Commission By-laws that would preclude the Commissioners from approving the recommended slate. Executive Director Spiegel responded that the same issue came up when she conferred with the ad hoc committee comprised of Commissioners Bowen and Colling and found that there was nothing in the Commission By-laws that pertained to this issue.

ON MOTION OF Commissioner Colling, seconded by Commissioner Lum, the Commission approved the recommended slate for Technical and Professional Advisory Committee membership.

AYES:	Cox, Colling, Faine, Lum, Bowen
ABSENT:	None
ABSTAIN:	None
NOES:	None

8. First 5 Commission of San Diego 2003-04 Budget

ON MOTION OF Commissioner Bowen, seconded by Commissioner Colling, the Commission approved the Commission's Budget for Fiscal Year 2003-04, on Consent.

AYES:	Cox, Colling, Faine, Lum, Bowen
ABSENT:	None
ABSTAIN:	None
NOES:	None

9. San Diego CARES - Application and Contract Renewal

Commissioner Lum commended the YMCA Child Resource Service (CRS) for doing a great job in administering the local program to improve the retention and education of early care and education staff. He wanted to know if there are communities in San Diego that are not being reached by this program. Staff member Frink responded that some barriers, as documented in the survey conducted by YMCA CRS, prevent some child care providers from entering the program. Ofelia Alvarado, Program Director of YMCA CRS, gave some examples of these barriers, i.e., difficulty in getting classes, class schedules, location, apprehension going to a college campus for the first time, etc. However, she mentioned that they are working with community colleges in all areas to try and alleviate some of these barriers. She further stated that their outreach has been fairly widespread and not limited to any one community. She did not have a list of communities not participating in the program but could make one available to the Commission. Staff member Frink commented that the State Commission's new regulation on "pre-entry level" for child care providers and license exempt providers might increase participation to the program.

Christine Lewis, a toddler teacher addressed the Commission on how the San Diego CARES has benefited her. The stipend program has motivated her to go back to school and learn how to deal with problems involving the children in her class. The classes she took also equipped her in communicating with parents of children with problems. The stipend she received helped her pay for the materials she uses in her class. She thanked the Commission for this great program.

ON MOTION OF Commissioner Colling, seconded by Commissioner Faine, the Commission authorized the Commission Chair to respond to the State Commission's Request for Funding for CARES matching funding; found that the proposed contract amendment with YMCA Child Resource Service is consistent with the Commission's Strategic Plan, furthers the support and improvement of early childhood development within the County and provides a public benefit; and authorized the Executive Director to negotiate and execute a one-year contract amendment, with two, one-year options, with YMCA Child Resource Service for the San Diego CARES child care provider education and retention incentive program for compensation not to exceed \$3,000,000 per year.

AYES:	Cox, Colling, Faine, Lum, Bowen
ABSENT:	None
ABSTAIN:	None
NOES:	None

10. Contract Renewal – Regional Perinatal System

Commissioner Bowen commended staff and Regional Perinatal System for the amount of work put into this program. The Kit has truly been a wonderful parent education tool. However, she was concerned about spending \$288,000 for the "What to do When Your Child Gets Sick" book to be included in the Kit, especially during this budget crisis. Although she knew the book was the top item parents indicated they wanted included in the Kit, the usefulness of the book has not been proven. She suggested doing a pilot test to see, after six months for example, how often parents use the book and how useful it is. In response to Commissioner Lum's question about costs, staff member Young stated that the costs were just estimates and can be reduced due to volume. Commissioner Lum stated a concern about the book's benefits to other cultural groups, e.g., the Asian population. He brought up the fact that people respond to problems differently and it would help to know to what extent the book addresses this. Liz Creer, Coordinator of the Welcome Baby Program, commented that the book is available in the Vietnamese language, although not updated. It will be updated as the demand for it increases. The Regional Perinatal System staff did a field test of the book with parents from the Union of Pan Asian Communities (UPAC) who speak 5 or 6 different Asian languages and are from different communities. The initial reaction was that the English language in the book was simple enough to understand, although they would prefer it in their own language. Commissioner Faine shared the same concerns aired by Commissioners Lum and Bowen and felt it was premature to act on the fourth staff recommendation to include the book in the local adaptation of the Kit. She suggested looking at the results of the field test administered to UPAC and other results taken or that will be taken before bringing this back to the Commission for action.

Gina Mellado from the San Ysidro School District's Child Development Preschool Program commented that the teachers have used these Kits and will start using them again as new parents enter their program. She had nothing but praise for the Kit and wished she had one when she was a new parent. The information in the Kit is invaluable and has helped her answer some basic questions from parents about health issues. Most of the time, parents can get answers to basic health questions from the Kit without feeling the need to go to the emergency room. Parents can also get positive validation that what they are doing is right. She hopes that the Commission will keep the Kits around for others to benefit from.

Chairman Cox resolved that due to concerns aired by Commissioners Lum, Bowen and Faine, the Commission would act on the first two, the third and the fourth staff recommendations separately.

ON MOTION OF Commissioner Colling, seconded by Commissioner Bowen, the Commission found that the proposed contract amendment with UCSD Regional Perinatal System is consistent with the Commission's Strategic Plan, furthers the support and improvement of early childhood development within the County and provides a public benefit; and authorized the Executive Director to negotiate and execute a contract amendment for up to \$526,425 with UCSD Regional Perinatal System to continue the distribution of

approximately 43,260 Kit for New Parents. Furthermore, ON MOTION OF Commissioner Bowen, seconded by Commissioner Colling, the Commission authorized the Executive Director to negotiate and execute an additional item in the contract amendment for up to \$35,000 for the inclusion of the local resource document in the Kit for New Parents. However, ON MOTION OF Commissioner Lum, seconded by Commissioner Colling, the Commission directed Commission staff to bring back the recommendation of negotiating and executing the additional item in the contract amendment for up to \$288,000 for the inclusion of the “What to do When Your Child Gets Sick” book in the Kit for New Parents after gathering data as to the book’s usefulness from parents, other agencies and Union of Pan Asian Communities.

AYES: Cox, Colling, Faine, Lum, Bowen
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None
NOES: None

11. School Readiness Funding

ON MOTION OF Commissioner Bowen, seconded by Commissioner Colling, the Commission, on Consent, approved the Escondido Union School District’s School Readiness Program in an amount up to \$757,774 for Fiscal Year 2003-2004; approved the Oceanside Unified School District’s School Readiness Program in an amount up to \$475,000 for Fiscal Year 2003-2004; authorized the Executive Director to execute a contract with Escondido Union School District not to exceed \$757,774 over 12 months; and authorized the Executive Director to execute a contract with Oceanside Unified School District not to exceed \$475,000 over 12 months.

AYES: Cox, Colling, Faine, Lum, Bowen
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None
NOES: None

12. Planning and Coordination Studies – 2003–2006 Implementation Plan

ON MOTION OF Commissioner Bowen, seconded by Commissioner Colling, the Commission approved the Statement of Work for the three planning and coordination studies: health, pre-literacy and behavioral health, on Consent; and authorized the Executive Director to work with Purchasing and Contracting to determine the most viable method to select vendors to conduct the planning and coordination studies in the areas of health, pre-literacy and behavioral health and to issue Request for Proposals (RFP) or return to the Commission for a sole source approval if an appropriate organization(s) is identified.

AYES: Cox, Colling, Faine, Lum, Bowen
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None
NOES: None

13. Sunset Review of Commission Policy

ON MOTION OF Commissioner Bowen, seconded by Commissioner Colling, the Commission approved the revisions to Commission Policy CFC-003, “Grant Funding Process” and extended the policy until June 2005 for its next Sunset Review, on Consent.

AYES: Cox, Colling, Faine, Lum, Bowen
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None
NOES: None

14. Information and Referral Systems, Resources Research and Planning for Coordination Report

Executive Director Spiegel gave a brief background on how this report came about. Parents and providers have consistently expressed the need to have access to high quality information and support. In July 2002, the Commission issued a Request for Proposal and The Fromm Group was selected to conduct the research about local information and referral (I&R) resources and 211 implementation throughout the nation, and to make

recommendations addressing the local planning for 211 implementation. Dr. Robin Avner, Senior Associate of the Fromm Group, presented to the Commission the Executive Summary of their report. The report included the goals of the report, the methods they used in achieving the goals, their findings and recommendations. Dr. Avner made the following recommendations on behalf of The Fromm Group:

- I&R organizations should adopt region-wide protocols for cross referral
- Providers should formalize referral procedures in written agreements/MOUs
- I&R organizations should improve and enhance client follow up services
- Organizations that receive Commission funding should have ongoing, regular cross training with I&R providers
- Commission should require agencies they fund to adopt AIRS standards for I&R services
- Commission should dedicate funding to research and implementation of technology for seamless call transfers

Regarding 211 implementation, Dr. Avner reported the following recommendations for the Commission:

- Disseminate information using only established I&R resources
- Coordinate to leverage resources and combine efforts with County HHSA, other County agencies and other County Commissions to enhance I&R services
- Coordinate the local information and referral system with 211 development
- Partner with and dedicate resources to the 211 provider, when selected
- Conduct further research in concert with the County and the 211 system provider to study available web-based technology for client access to online I&R
- Partner with and dedicate resources to the 211 system provider, when selected

Chairman Cox mentioned that Commissioners Colling, Lum, Bowen and he are involved with the 211 Leadership Task Force in San Diego and would like to verify with Deputy County Counsel that there is no conflict of interest between their role as Commissioners and as members of the 211 Leadership Committee. Deputy County Counsel Smith responded that he has reviewed a previously released opinion with Commission staff and did not see a direct conflict of interest between the two roles as of this time. He stated that he would inform the Commission in case a change occurs.

ON MOTION OF Commissioner Bowen, seconded by Commissioner Lum, the Commission accepted and approved the Information and Referral Systems, Resources Research and Planning for Coordination Report.

AYES:	Cox, Colling, Faine, Lum, Bowen
ABSENT:	None
ABSTAIN:	None
NOES:	None

15. Commission Updates

The Commission received the status report on the results obtained from the Implementation and Allocation Plan for January 2001 through June 30, 2003, a calendar of community engagement activities for June and July 2003, and an updated summary listing of relevant bills introduced into the 2002 and 2003 legislative sessions, including bills signed by the governor and Chaptered into law, on Consent. No action was taken on this item as it was for information purposes only.

16. Future Agenda Items

Items to be discussed at subsequent Commission meetings include:

- Children Health Disability Prevention (CHDP) Grant
- Consultant Contract Renewal
- Approval of the Contract for Independent Evaluation
- Fiscal Year 2003-04 Funding Priorities
- Approval of Commission Policy CFC-010, Innovative Grant Funding Process
- TPAC Terms of Service

17. Adjournment

Chairman Cox adjourned the meeting of the Commission at 3:00 p.m. to reconvene on July 7, 2003 in the Tower 6 Board Conference Room, County Administration Center. The meeting on August 4, 2003 was cancelled.

Notes by Meegan

Respectfully submitted for your review and approval:

Dr. Nora Faine, Secretary

Date